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Takes a Natural
Approach

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James Landscaping, Inc.



TAKES A NATURAL APPROACH

by tammy adams

Rain Gardens—Reduce Flooding, and Protect Water Resources

A beautiful yard and outdoor environment not only enhances the value of a home but it enhances the lives of the family that lives there. An appealing outdoor landscape not only looks beautiful but it invites people outdoors—to relax and enjoy all of nature’s many offerings.

James Landscaping is known regionally as the best source for beautiful, low maintenance, lush landscapes. With a commitment to excellence on every level and hard work, the company has earned a reputation as one of North Texas’ most respected landscaping providers. Expertise, creative designs and unmatched service are the hallmarks of **James Landscaping**.



Started by Rhonda James more than 18 years ago, the company has flourished over the years. James is a degreed horticulturist with a keen interest in preserving the environment while enhancing her client’s personal spaces. James and Cassie Cole, vice president and designer, take every opportunity to distinguish themselves in the industry by offering more in the areas of support, quality of work, education and superior products.

RAIN GARDENS—AN INEXPENSIVE AND ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND SOLUTION TO STORMWATER RUNOFF

A rain garden is a shallow, constructed depression that is planted with deep-rooted native plants and grasses. It is positioned to receive runoff from hard surfaces such as roofs, sidewalks and driveways. Rain gardens slow down the rush of water from these hard surfaces, hold the water for a short period of time and allow it to naturally infiltrate into the ground.

A rain garden effectively filters contaminants and returns clean water to the aquifers rather than sending it down the storm drain to the Gulf of Mexico. “Building a rain garden is probably the easiest and most efficient thing you can do to reduce your contribution

to stormwater pollution,” said Cole. “Individuals can be part of the solution and a rain garden is a great way.”

“We have to address water conservation,” said James. “It is THE big issue.” Rain gardens are one way **James Landscaping** does that. Other ways include installing drip irrigation—especially in planting beds—whenever possible. “During the months that we’re under water restrictions, you can still use drip irrigation and that can literally save your landscape,” said James.

BEING EARTHKIND™

From offering low-maintenance landscapes that require minimal watering to hand-selecting plants that will thrive, *James Landscaping* is not your average landscaper. There are no cookie-cutter designs or standard packages at *James Landscaping*.

James Landscaping, Inc. is proud to be certified providers of Earthkind™ landscapes, an environmental landscape management program developed at Texas A&M. "The goal of the program is for Americans to enjoy beautiful, productive landscapes which require only minimal maintenance while providing maximum protection for the environment," Cole explained. "We base our horticultural decisions on a deep, abiding respect for the environment and on the latest scientifically-sound, research-based information."

Another principle is employing Earthkind™ techniques of plant selection and soil preparation to avoid pest problems before they occur, and utilizing Earthkind™ and Texas Superstar™ plants whenever possible. Pesticides are recommended only as a last resort, and then only the most environmentally responsible products should be used.

To come up with the plants that make it into the program, researchers at A&M grow selected plants in different regions of the state. They don't amend the soil or fertilize and they water the test plants very minimally. "If the plants survive, and even thrive, they make the cut and are named Texas Superstar™ plants," James said.

"So, these plants that were surviving under the research criteria will actually flourish when used in one of our landscapes because we will amend the soil and apply mulch based on A&M's latest research recommendations," James explained. **"According to the latest findings in the A&M research program, if you add the proper amount of compost before planting and then keep at least three inches of mulch at all times, you can reduce your watering by 70 percent!"** James said. That's good news for North Texas homeowners.



The result of an Earthkind™ design is a beautiful, healthy landscape that requires less water than a traditional landscape, is less likely to need harsh chemical pesticides and thrives well in the area for which it was designed. Here, in North Texas, where plants must be able to endure drought and rainy conditions, clients are lining up to have an Earthkind™ landscape.

A JAMES LANDSCAPING, INC. DESIGN CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE

Every landscape design created by *James Landscaping, Inc.* is as purposeful as it is beautiful with consideration given to environmental friendliness and drought resistance. Years of experience and lots of heart go into each design. And it shows.

Their clients come from across the Metroplex and beyond. A recent customer, Sabra Hook had a total yard makeover at her home in Grapevine. "Our backyard looks so good now and we are so pleased!" she said. "Everyone worked so hard at turning our mud pit into a place that is lovely to look at and even better to be outside and enjoying."

What many *James Landscaping* clients already know is now supported by research. A report published in the Journal of Environmental Horticulture, stated that plant material and sophistication of design used in a landscape increase a home's perceived value by five to eleven percent! Texas showed the greatest range in perceived home value due to landscape design sophistication.

It is their commitment to the client on every level that has earned *James Landscaping, Inc.* the reputation as one of the area's premier landscaping companies.

For more information about *James Landscaping's* services and a showcase of their work, including landscapes, ecologically balanced ponds, stone patios, lighting and more, readers are invited to visit their Web site at www.jameslandscaping.com.

Call today to schedule a consultation at 817-329-0528. ☎

